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the international list of causes of death and the allocation of all deaths, as far as possible, to the area of residence.

English papers have received these "remarkable statistics" with some misgivings. The fewer marriages and births in the upper and middle classes of the population are attributed to the growing love of luxury and ease and to the high cost of living. "But it is a notable fact," says an official of the Church army who works among the poor, "that in the lowest grades of society the fructivity of the people is unchecked."

J. K.

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The Director of the Census recently appointed Hon. S. N. D. North and Hon. William R. Merriam, former Directors of the Census; Professor Walter F. Willcox, of Cornell University; Mr. W. S. Rossiter, formerly Chief Clerk of the Census; and Hon. Daniel C. Roper, First Assistant Postmaster General, and formerly an official of the Census Bureau, as special agents of the Bureau to make studies of the present condition of statistical work, including particularly the unfinished work of the Thirteenth Census, and plans for the better organization and administration of the Bureau in connection with the annual and other inquiries. These gentlemen have been on duty at the Bureau during the past week or ten days, and have been making inquiry and studies concerning the various problems assigned to them.

It was evident at once that the condition of work in the Census Bureau required a separation of the problem into two parts, the first and most pressing being the disposition of the remaining work of the Thirteenth Census. A series of recommendations embodied the opinions of the experts, individually and collectively, and are as follows:

September 19, 1913.

*"To the Director:*

"In view of the facts (1) that the act for the taking of the Thirteenth and subsequent censuses requires that the reports of that census shall be completed and published on or before July 1, 1912; (2) that, although three and one-half years have now elapsed since the enumeration, much of the Thirteenth Census work is still uncompleted; (3) that the regular annual reports and other work of the intercensal period have been greatly delayed because a large body of census clerks is still employed upon the Thirteenth Census work; (4) that the value and usefulness of the annual and other reports required by law are largely dependent upon the promptness with which they are compiled and given to the public; and (5) that current appropriations are required for the purposes for which they were made.

"The undersigned special agents of the Bureau of the Census, instructed by the Director to make studies of particular branches of statistical work in the Bureau, have now partly completed their several tasks, and advise the Director to begin no new tabulations or analyses in connection with the unfinished branches of the Thirteenth Census; namely,

Population and Mines and Quarries, and to readjust the work on those branches and on the delayed annual reports so as to insure their publication not later than December 31, 1913.

“Therefore we advise:

“1. That the proposed second machine run of the cards for the purpose of tabulating occupations be abandoned, thus expediting the time of production by about six months and reducing the cost of finishing that branch by about \$65,000; and that the tables yielded by the first run of the cards be printed without derivative tables or text. These tables give the number of persons of each sex in each occupation, and classify them by race, nativity, and parent nativity, and five age periods, thus insuring the publication of the primary classification of occupational data as reported at previous censuses.

“2. That the report upon native tongue be limited to the chapter to appear in the forthcoming final volume on population.

“3. That the tables relating to Mines and Quarries now in the form of printed bulletins, proofs, or manuscript be sent to the Public Printer at once, the same to constitute the final report on Mines and Quarries, and that no further tabulations or text be prepared in connection with that report.

“4. That tables for the benevolent institutions, and for the institutional population, namely, prisoners, insane and feeble-minded, and paupers, be prepared and published without percentage or other derivative tables and without analytical text.

“5. That the annual compilation of the statistics of forest products be abandoned. There appears to be no authority of law for an annual inquiry of this character, which the records show to have cost from \$20,000 to \$40,000 a year.

“6. That the annual report on the financial statistics of cities for 1912 be completed and published by January 1, 1914, by curtailing the amount of detail to be included; that the schedules and report for 1913 be similarly curtailed; that the reports for the years 1912 and 1913 be printed without text, except such as is necessary for explanation and definition; and that until the annual reports on the financial statistics of cities are brought up to date, no attempt be made to prepare a report on general municipal statistics. This recommendation is based on the fact that delay in the compilation and publication of the annual municipal reports detracts seriously from their value.

“7. That the reports on mortality statistics for the years 1911 and 1912 be published before the close of the present calendar year. To make this possible, the text of these reports should be reduced to a minimum or omitted, the tables condensed, and no effort made to publish a report on births until the mortality reports are published.

“8. That work upon the standardization of death rates, life tables, and occupational mortality be suspended until the above reports have been published. There is no reason why the mortality report for each year

should not be compiled and published prior to the close of the succeeding calendar year.

"9. That the emergency presented by the delay in completing the Thirteenth Census justifies the Director in requesting the Secretary of Commerce to lay the matter before the President with the view of securing his instructions to the Public Printer to give precedence so far as practicable to the remaining publications of the Thirteenth Census and the annual reports long overdue.

"The undersigned special agents of the Bureau of the Census submit these recommendations. They will severally give their attention to the various questions submitted to each of them by the Director, and prepare further memoranda for his consideration at an early date."

It is probable that the inquiries of the experts into the more important but less pressing subject of the organization and administration of the Bureau in connection with the current work, and the statistical reports to be taken up during the remainder of the present decade, will be the subject of another series of recommendations to be made within the next thirty days.

Director Harris expresses the earnest hope and expectation that the studies and recommendations of the former officials and others interested in the Bureau will result in great improvement in the quality of work, in the rapidity of its production, and also effect a reduction of expenditure.

WALTER F. WILLCOX.

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## FIRST GENERAL CENSUS OF THE UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.

Fifty years had passed since the enactment of the first Cape Colony Census Act, when in May, 1908, the Inter-Colonial Conference (the precursor of the National Convention, which led to Union) met at Pretoria, and discussed *inter alia* proposals for uniformity of statistical methods. The first Union Parliament passed a Census and Statistics act and a Permanent Census Bureau was established in 1912. A quinquennial census of the European population is required by the new Constitution for electoral purposes, and the Census Bureau has a busy future before it.

At the date of the 1911 census the area in square miles of the Union of South Africa was computed as follows: Cape of Good Hope, 275,995; Transvaal, 110,426; Orange Free State, 50,389; Natal, 35,290; Total, 473,100.

The population figures are as follows: Cape of Good Hope, European or white, 301,268 male and 281,109 female; Bantu, 721,441 and 798,498; mixed and other colored, 239,962 and 229,687. Transvaal, white, 236,913 and 183,649; Bantu, 705,862 and 513,983; colored, 28,780 and 17,025; Orange Free State, white, 94,488 and 80,701; Bantu, 168,585 and 157,239; colored, 14,445 and 12,716. Natal, 52,495 and 45,619; Bantu, 427,061 and 526,337; colored, 85,092 and 57,439.